1. A compound having a structure selected from the group consisting of:

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$$(R_2)_x$$

$$CH_2 \longrightarrow (R_3)_x$$

$$(R_3)_x$$

and

$$(R_2)_x$$

$$CH_2 - U$$

$$(R_3)_x$$

in which each x is independently 1 or 2;

each R_1 is independently selected from the group consisting of H; halogen; C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{1-4} alkenyl; C_{1-4} alkynyl; --COR₄ where R_4 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; cyano; nitro; trihalomethyl; oxo; or $-(CH_2)_n$ -X- $(CH_2)_m$ - $(R_5)_0$ where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R_5 is methyl

15 or H_{1-2} ;

each R_2 and each R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of H; halogen; C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{1-4} alkenyl; C_{1-4} alkynyl; --COR₄ where R_4 is H; C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; cyano; nitro; trihalomethyl; oxo;

said double bond,

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- or $-(CH_2)_n$ -X- $(CH_2)_m$ - $(R_5)_o$ where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R_5 is methyl or H_{1-2} ; or an R_2 and an R_3 together condense to form a saturated, partly saturated, or unsaturated ring structure having the formula $-(C(R_6)_p)_q$ -X_s- $(C(R_6)_p)_r$ -X_t— $(C(R_6)_p)_u$ where each R_6 is independently selected from the group consisting of H; halogen; C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{1-4} alkenyl; C_{1-4} alkynyl; --COR₄ where R_4 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; cyano; nitro; trihalomethyl and oxo where each p is independently 1 or 2, q is 0-5, r is 0-5, u is 0-5; each X is independently O, S, or N and s is 0 or 1; provided that q + r + u + s + t is less than 6;
- Y is selected from the group consisting of O; S; N; --(C(R₇)_z)_s—where each R₇ is independently as previously defined for R1, each z is independently 1-2, and s is 1-3; --CH=; --CH=CH--; or Y₁CH₂—where Y₁ is O, N, or S; and the dotted lines are optional double bonds, with the proviso that if the ring including Y is a cyclohexane ring or a heterocyclic 5 member ring said ring is not fully unsaturated, and that if Y is O, N or S, the ring including Y contains at least one
 - said compound further having selective agonist activity at the $\alpha 2B$ or $\alpha 2B/\alpha 2C$ adrenergic receptor subtype(s) over the $\alpha 2A$ adrenergic receptor subtype, and all pharmacologically acceptable salts, esters, stereoisomers and racemic mixtures thereof.
 - 2. The compound of claim 1 in which the ring including Y has either a single double bond or no double bond, except that when an R₂ and an R₃ condense together to form a saturated, unsaturated or partly saturated ring structure said Y-including ring may share an additional double bond with said condensed ring, provided Y is not S, O, or N.

- 3. The compound of claim 2 in which Y is selected from the group consisting of: O; S; N; --CH=; --CH₂--CH₂--; --CH₂--; --CH=CH--; --Y₁=CH-- and Y₁CH₂-- where Y₁ is O, N or S.
- 5 4. The compound of either claim 2 or 3 in which each R₁, if present, is independently selected from the group consisting of: H; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; halide; C₃₋₆ cyloalkyl and trihalomethyl.
- 5. The compound of any of claims 1, 2, or 3 in which Y is selected from the group consisting of: -CH₂—; --CH=; O; S; and N.
 - 6. The compound of claim 4 in which Y is selected from the group consisting of: -CH₂—; --CH=; O; S; and N.
- 7. The compound of any of claims 1, 2 or 3 in which Y is selected from the group consisting of: -CH₂-CH₂--; --CH=CH--; --Y₁=CH-- and --Y₁-CH₂--, where Y₁ is O, N, or S.
- 8. The compound of claim 4 in which Y is selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-CH₂--; --CH=CH--; and --Y₁-CH₂--, where Y₁ is O, N, or S.
- The compound of claim 2, in which each R₂ and each R₃ are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; halide; trihalomethyl; cycloalkyl; (CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o, where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂; or an R₂ and an R₃ together condense to form a saturated, partly saturated, or unsaturated ring structure having the formula –(C(R₆)_p)_q-X_s-(C(R₆)_p)_r -X_t—(C(R₆)_p)_u where each R₆ is independently selected from the group consisting of H; halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H,

 C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; cyano; nitro; trihalomethyl; and oxo where each p is independently 1 or 2, q is 0-4, r is 0-4, u is 0-4; each X is independently O, S, or N, s is 0 or 1, and q + s + r + t + u = 3 or 4.

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- 10. The compound of claim 3, in which each R_2 and each R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; $C_{1.4}$ alkyl; $C_{1.4}$ alkenyl; $C_{1.4}$ alkynyl; halide; trihalomethyl; cycloalkyl; $(CH_2)_n$ -X- $(CH_2)_m$ - $(R_5)_o$, where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R_5 is methyl or H_{1-2} ; or an R_2 and an R_3 together condense to form a saturated, partly saturated, or unsaturated ring structure having the formula $-(C(R_6)_p)_q$ -X_s- $(C(R_6)_p)_r$ -X_t— $(C(R_6)_p)_u$ where each R_6 is independently selected from the group consisting of H; halogen; C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{1-4} alkenyl; C_{1-4} alkynyl; --COR₄ where R_4 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; cyano; nitro; trihalomethyl; and oxo where each p is independently 1 or 2, q is 0-4, r is 0-4, u is 0-4; each X is independently O, S, or N, s is 0 or 1, and q + s + r + t + u = 3 or 4.
- 11. The compound of claim 10 where if any R₁ is not H, then (R₁)_x equals (R₁)₁,

 R₁ is not present, or (R₁)_x equals R₁ and H; if any R₂ is not H, then either

 (R₂)_x equals (R₂)₁ or (R₂)_x equals R₂ and H; and if any R₃ is not H, then either (R₃)_x equals (R₃)₁, or (R₃)_x equals R₃ and H.

12. The compound of claim 10 represented by a formula selected from the group consisting of:

$$(R_2)_x$$

$$(R_3)_x$$

$$(R_3)_x$$

5

and

$$(R_2)_x$$

$$(R_3)_x$$

$$(R_3)_x$$

- 10 13. The compound of claim 12 in which the ring including Y is completely saturated.
 - 14. The compound of claim 13 in which at least one of $(R_1)_x$, $(R_2)_x$ and $(R_3)_x$ equals $(H)_2$.

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15. The compound of claim 14 in which $(R_1)_x$ equals H or $(H)_2$.

- 16. The compound of claim 13 in which at least one of an R₂ or an R₃ is selected from the group consisting of: halogen; C₁-₄ alkyl; C₁-₄ alkenyl; C₁-₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁-₄ alkyl or C₁-₄ alkoxy; C₃-₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; (CH₂)n-X-(CH₂)m-(R₅)₀, where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁-₂; and oxo.
- 17. The compound of claim 13 in which Y is selected from the group consisting of --CH2--, O, S, and N.
- 10 18. The compound of claim 17 in which Y is -CH₂--.
 - 19. The compound of claim 17 in which Y is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and N.
- 20. The compound of claim 13 in which Y is selected from the group consisting of --CH₂--CH₂--and --Y₁-CH₂--, where Y₁ is O, S, or N.
 - 21. The compound of claim 20 in which Y is -CH₂-CH₂--.
- 22. The compound of claim 20 in which Y is --Y₁-CH₂--, where Y₁ is O, S, or N.
 - 23. The compound of claim 22 comprising the following structure:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & (R_2)x \\ \hline \\ R_1 & \\ \hline \\ & S \end{array}$$

24. The compound of claim 22 comprising the following structure:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & (R_2)x \\ \hline \\ R_1 & (R_2)x \\ \hline \\ \end{array}$$

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25. The compound of claim 22 comprising the following structure:

$$R_1$$
 R_2
 R_2
 R_2
 R_2
 R_2
 R_2
 R_2
 R_2
 R_3
 R_4

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26. The compound of any one of claims 21-25 in which an R₂ and an R₃ together condense to form a saturated, partly saturated, or unsaturated ring structure having the formula $-(C(R_6)_p)_q$ -X_s- $(C(R_6)_p)_r$ -X_t— $(C(R_6)_p)_u$ where each R₆ is independently selected from the group consisting of H; halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄

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- 37. The compound of either of claim 36 in which at least two R₆ groups are selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; -(CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂; and oxo.
- 38. The compound of claim 26 in which both s and t equal 0.
- 39. The compound of claim 38 in which q + r + s + t + u equal 3.
- 40. The compound of claim 39 in which said ring structure is not completely saturated.
- 41. The compound of claim 40 in which at least one R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; -(CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂; and oxo.
- 42. The compound of claim 41 in which at least two R₆ groups are independently selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; -(CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂; and oxo.
 - 43. The compound of claim 39 in which said ring structure is fully saturated.
 - 44. The compound of claim 43 in which at least one R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄

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where R_4 is H; C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; $-(CH_2)_n$ -X- $(CH_2)_m$ - $(R_5)_o$ where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R_5 is methyl or H_{1-2} ; and oxo.

- 5 45. The compound of claim 44 in which at least two R₆ groups are independently selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; -(CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂; and oxo.
 - 46. The compound of claim 38 in which q + r + s + t + u equal 4.
 - 47. The compound of claim 46 in which said ring structure is fully saturated.
- 48. The compound of claim 47 in which at least one R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; -(CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂; and oxo.
 - 49. The compound of claim 48 in which at least two R₆ groups are independently selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; -(CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂; and oxo.
 - 50. The compound of claim 46 in which said ring structure is not completely saturated.

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- 51. The compound of claim 50 in which at least one R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; -(CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂; and oxo.
- 52. The compound of claim 51 in which at least two R₆ groups are independently selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; -(CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂; and oxo.
 - 53. The compound of claim 12 in which the ring including Y is not completely saturated.
- 54. The compound of claim 53 in which at least one of $(R_1)_x$, $(R_2)_x$ and $(R_3)_x$ equals $(H)_2$.
 - 55. The compound of claim 54 in which $(R_1)_x$ equals H or $(H)_2$.
- 56. The compound of claim 53 in which at least one of an R₂ or an R₃ is selected from the group consisting of: halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; -COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; cyano; nitro; trihalomethyl; oxo; and -(CH₂)_n-X-(CH₂)_m-(R₅)_o where X is O, S or N, n is 0-3, m is 0-3, o is 0-1, and R₅ is methyl or H₁₋₂.
 - 57. The compound of claim 56 in which said at least one of an R_2 or an R_3 is selected from the group consisting of: C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkenyl; and C_{1-4} alkynyl.

58. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

59. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

10 60. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

61. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

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62. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

63. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

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64. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

65. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure: 10

66. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

67. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

68. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

69. The compound of claim 56 in which said compound has the structure:

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- 70. The compound of claim 53 in which said at least one of an R_2 or an R_3 is selected from the group consisting of: halogen; trihalomethyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl.
- 71. The compound of claim 53 in which an R₂ and an R₃ together condense to form a saturated, partly saturated, or unsaturated ring structure having the formula –(C(R₆)_p)_q-X_s-(C(R₆)_p)_r –X_t—(C(R₆)_p)_u where each R₆ is independently selected from the group consisting of H; halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy;
- C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; cyano; nitro; trihalomethyl; and oxo where each p is independently 1 or 2, q is 0-4, r is 0-4, u is 0-4; each X is independently O, S, or N, s is 0 or 1, and q + s + r + t + u = 3 or 4.
 - 72. The compound of claim 71 in which at least one of s and t equals 1.
- 73. The compound of claim 72 in which q + r + s + t + u equal 3.
 - 74. The compound of claim 73 in which an X equals S.
- 20 75. The compound of claim 73 in which an X equals O.
 - 76. The compound of claim 73 in which an X equals N.
 - 77. The compound of claim 72 in which q + r + s + t + u equal 4.
 - 78. The compound of claim 77 in which an X equals S.
 - 79. The compound of claim 77 in which an X equals O.

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- 80. The compound of claim 77 in which an X equals N.
- 81. The compound of either of claims 73 or 77 in which at least one R_6 is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{1-4} alkenyl; C_{1-4} alkynyl; --COR₄ where R_4 is H; C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.
- 82. The compound of claim 81 in which at least two R₆ groups are selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; -COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.
 - 83. The compound of claim 77 in which said compound has the structure:

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in which Y1 is selected from the group consisting of O, N, and S.

84. The compound of claim 77 in which said compound has the structure:

85. The compound of claim 77 in which said compound has the structure:

86. The compound of claim 77 in which said compound has the structure:

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87. The compound of claim 77 in which said compound has the structure:

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88. The compound of claim 77 in which said compound has the structure:

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- 89. The compound of claim 71 in which both s and t equal 0.
- 90. The compound of claim 89 in which q + r + s + t + u equal 3.

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- 91. The compound of claim 90 in which said ring structure is at least partly saturated.
- 92. The compound of claim 91 in which at least one R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.
- 93. The compound of claim 92 in which at least two R₆ groups are
 15 independently selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.
 - 94. The compound of claim 90 in which said ring structure is fully unsaturated.

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95. The compound of claim 94 in which at least one R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.

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96. The compound of claim 92 in which at least two R₆ groups are independently selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.

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- 97. The compound of claim 89 in which q + r + s + t + u equal 4.
- 98. The compound of claim 97 in which said ring structure is fully saturated.
- 99. The compound of claim 98 in which at least one R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.
- 100. The compound of claim 99 in which at least two R₆ groups are independently selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.
 - 101. The compound of claim 97 in which said ring structure is partly saturated.
 - 102. The compound of claim 101 in which said compound has the formula:

103. The compound of claim 101 in which at least one R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄

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where R_4 is H; C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.

- 104. The compound of claim 103 in which at least two R₆ groups are independently selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.
 - 105. The compound of claim 97 in which said ring structure is unsaturated.
- 106. The compound of claim 105 in which at least one R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H; C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.
 - 107. The compound of claim 106 in which at least two R₆ groups are independently selected from the group consisting of halogen; C₁₋₄ alkyl; C₁₋₄ alkenyl; C₁₋₄ alkynyl; --COR₄ where R₄ is H, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy; C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; trihalomethyl; and oxo.
 - 108. A compound represented by the structure:

